

August 13, 1998

Professor William Manchester
c/o Joseph G. Lynch, Esq.
Halloran & Sage
One Goodwin Square
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Professor Manchester:

I am writing to you as a fellow historian who also is a member of the Assassination Records Review Board. I am aware of the earlier approaches that have been made to you about the *Death of A President* papers that currently are housed in the JFK Library. I deeply regret that we have not been able to reach a shared and positive resolution about how you might be able to contribute to the historical record by opening your records to researchers at the National Archives and JFK Library.

It is my understanding that you previously and generously made available copies of some of your *DOAP* papers to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Although I do not know what motivated you at that time, I can only applaud your willingness to help the American people understand that you were uniquely able to obtain in the weeks and months following the assassination.

I cannot help but believe that we share the belief that historical records should be open to the historical community so that independent, probative, and sound scholars can review the material and make their own judgments about the meaning of the records. I imagine that neither of us genuinely believes that the historical record, particularly on events as important as the assassination of the President, should be controlled by limiting access to information. I believe that we both understand that history and fidelity to truth is not enhanced by denying access to probative information.

I strongly urge you to consider seriously the value of your agreeing to open the *DOAP* records to the community of scholars who wishes to examine them.

Sincerely,

Dean Kermit L. Hall